

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 (**Previously Presented**). A method for managing liquidity requirements of asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising the steps of:

identifying a full liquidity commitment for a financial instrument of at least one financial institution wherein the financial instrument is guaranteed by a plurality of assets;

determining a rating for each of the plurality of assets guaranteeing the financial instrument for a predetermined period of time wherein the rating provides an indication of creditworthiness of an issuer of each asset;

determining a rating transition probability for each of the plurality of assets for the predetermined period of time based at least in part on statistics indicating a likelihood of a rating transition based on historical data;

determining whether a draw event occurred for a time period prior to the predetermined time period;

determining a probability of a continuing draw event over the predetermined time period, if the draw event is determined;

determining a probability of a new draw event for a time period after the predetermined time period, if no draw event is determined;

wherein the steps of determining a rating, determining a rating transition probability, determining whether a draw event occurred, determining a probability of a continuing draw event and determining a probability of a new draw event are performed for a plurality of

predetermined time periods to perform a simulation to predict one or more liquidity funding needs associated with the plurality of assets; and

estimating a reduced liquidity level for the financial instrument that is less than the full liquidity commitment for the financial instrument wherein the reduced liquidity level satisfies the one or more liquidity funding needs as determined by the simulation.

2 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 1,
wherein the financial instrument comprises a commercial paper.

3 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 1,
wherein the rating transition probability is based on a ratings transition matrix.

4 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one financial institution further comprises a plurality of banks, wherein the simulation further comprises the step of determining probabilities of default by the plurality of banks.

5 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 1, wherein the assets guaranteeing the financial instrument are correlated, wherein the simulation further comprises the step of creating a virtual portfolio of uncorrelated assets, which model the assets guaranteeing the financial instrument.

6 (**Currently Amended**). A method according to claim 1, wherein the assets

guaranteeing the financial instrument are correlated, wherein the simulation further comprises the ~~step~~ steps of:

determining a diversity score for the assets; and
determining characteristics of the assets.

7 (**Canceled**).

8 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of determining a rating transition probability considers one or more characteristics of the assets.

9 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 1, wherein the at least one financial institution further comprises a plurality of banks, the method further comprising allocating the reduced liquidity level among the plurality of banks.

10 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 9, wherein the reduced liquidity level is a percentage of the full liquidity commitment and the allocation is substantially the same percentage for each of the plurality of banks.

11 (**Previously Presented**). Computer executable software code transmitted as an information signal, the code for managing liquidity requirements of asset backed commercial paper, the code comprising:

code to identify a full liquidity commitment for a financial instrument of at least one financial institution wherein the financial instrument is guaranteed by a plurality of assets;

code to determine a rating for each of the plurality of assets guaranteeing the financial instrument for a predetermined period of time wherein the rating provides an indication of creditworthiness of an issuer of each asset;

code to determine a rating transition probability for each of the plurality of assets for the predetermined period of time based at least in part on statistics indicating a likelihood of a rating transition based on historical data; and

code to determine whether a draw event occurred for a time period prior to the predetermined time period;

code to determine a probability of a continuing draw event over the predetermined time period, if the draw event is determined;

code to determine a probability of a new draw event for a time period after the predetermined time period, if no draw event is determined;

wherein the code to determine a rating, the code to determine a rating transition probability, the code to determine whether a draw event occurred, the code to determine a probability of a continuing draw event and the code to determine a probability of a new draw event are executed for a plurality of predetermined time periods to perform a simulation to predict one or more liquidity funding needs associated with the plurality of assets; and

code to estimate a reduced liquidity level for the financial instrument that is less than the full liquidity commitment for the financial instrument wherein the reduced liquidity level satisfies the one or more liquidity funding needs as determined by the simulation.

12 (**Previously Presented**). A computer-readable medium having computer executable software code stored thereon, the code for managing liquidity requirements of asset backed commercial paper, the code comprising:

code to identify a full liquidity commitment for a financial instrument of at least one financial institution wherein the financial instrument is guaranteed by a plurality of assets;

code to determine a rating for each of the plurality of assets guaranteeing the financial instrument for a predetermined period of time wherein the rating provides an indication of creditworthiness of an issuer of each asset;

code to determine a rating transition probability for each of the plurality of assets for the predetermined period of time based at least in part on statistics indicating a likelihood of a rating transition based on historical data; and

code to determine whether a draw event occurred for a time period prior to the predetermined time period;

code to determine a probability of a continuing draw event over the predetermined time period, if the draw event is determined;

code to determine a probability of a new draw event for a time period after the predetermined time period, if no draw event is determined;

wherein the code to determine a rating, the code to determine a rating transition probability, the code to determine whether a draw event occurred, the code to determine a probability of a continuing draw event and the code to determine a probability of a new draw event are executed for a plurality of predetermined time periods to perform a simulation to predict one or more liquidity funding needs associated with the plurality of assets; and

code to estimate a reduced liquidity level for the financial instrument that is less than the full liquidity commitment for the financial instrument wherein the reduced liquidity level satisfies the one or more liquidity funding needs as determined by the simulation.

13 (**Previously Presented**). A programmed computer for managing liquidity requirements of asset backed commercial paper, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and
a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory; wherein the program code comprises:

code to identify a full liquidity commitment for a financial instrument of at least one financial institution wherein the financial instrument is guaranteed by a plurality of assets;

code to determine a rating for each of the plurality of assets guaranteeing the financial instrument for a predetermined period of time wherein the rating provides an indication of creditworthiness of an issuer of each asset;

code to determine a rating transition probability for each of the plurality of assets for the predetermined period of time based at least in part on statistics indicating a likelihood of a rating transition based on historical data; and

code to determine whether a draw event occurred for a time period prior to the predetermined time period;

code to determine a probability of a continuing draw event over the predetermined time period, if the draw event is determined;

code to determine a probability of a new draw event for a time period after the predetermined time period, if no draw event is determined;

wherein the code to determine a rating, the code to determine a rating transition probability, the code to determine whether a draw event occurred, the code to determine a probability of a continuing draw event and the code to determine a probability of a new draw event are executed for a plurality of predetermined time periods to perform a simulation to predict one or more liquidity funding needs associated with the plurality of assets; and

code to estimate a reduced liquidity level for the financial instrument that is less than the full liquidity commitment for the financial instrument wherein the reduced liquidity level satisfies the one or more liquidity funding needs as determined by the simulation.

14 (**Previously Presented**). A method for managing liquidity requirements of asset backed commercial paper comprising:

determining a full liquidity requirement for commercial paper commitments of a plurality of banks;

determining public agency ratings of assets backing the commitments;

determining probabilities of rating changes of the assets using data from past rating changes;

determining probabilities of draw on liquidity for the assets using data from past draws on liquidity;

determining probabilities of extent of draw on liquidity for the assets using data from past extent of draw on liquidity;

determining probabilities of existence of draw on liquidity for the assets using data from past existence of draw on liquidity;

determining probabilities of continued draw on liquidity for the assets using data from past continued draw on liquidity;

estimating a percentage reduced liquidity amount for the commitments using at least the public agency ratings, the probabilities of rating changes, the probabilities of draw on liquidity, the probabilities of extent of draw, the probabilities of existence of a draw, and the probabilities of continued draw; and substantially uniformly allocating the percentage reduced liquidity amount among the plurality of banks.

15 (Original). A method for issuing asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising:

receiving a liquidity commitment from at least one financial institution for a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, wherein the liquidity commitment assures full liquidity for the particular commercial paper issue and represents less than full liquidity for a portfolio of asset backed commercial paper issues, and further wherein the less than full liquidity is determined by ratings of the assets backing the portfolio and probabilities of rating changes of the assets backing the portfolio; and

issuing the particular asset backed commercial paper.

16 (Original). A method for issuing asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising:

receiving a full liquidity commitment from an entity representing a plurality of banks for a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, wherein the liquidity commitment assures full liquidity for the particular commercial paper issue and represents less than full liquidity for a

larger portfolio of asset backed commercial paper issues, and further wherein the less than full liquidity is calculated using ratings of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of rating changes of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of extent of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of existence of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of continued draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, and probabilities of default by the plurality of banks; and

issuing the particular asset backed commercial paper.

17 (Original). A method for investing in asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising:

investing in a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, which has a liquidity commitment from at least one financial institution, wherein the liquidity commitment assures full liquidity for the particular commercial paper issue and represents less than full liquidity for a portfolio of asset backed commercial paper issues, and further wherein the less than full liquidity is determined by ratings of the assets backing the portfolio and probabilities of rating changes of the assets backing the portfolio; and

redeeming the particular asset backed commercial paper.

18 (Original). A method for investing in asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising:

investing in a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, which has a full liquidity commitment from an entity representing a plurality of banks for the particular asset backed

commercial paper issue, wherein the liquidity commitment assures full liquidity for the particular commercial paper issue and represents less than full liquidity for a larger portfolio of asset backed commercial paper issues, and further wherein the less than full liquidity is calculated using ratings of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of rating changes of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of extent of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of existence of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of continued draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, and probabilities of default by the plurality of banks; and

redeeming the particular asset backed commercial paper.

19 (Original). A method for providing liquidity commitments to asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising

providing a liquidity commitment for a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, wherein the liquidity commitment assures full liquidity for the particular commercial paper issue and represents less than full liquidity for a portfolio of asset backed commercial paper issues, and further wherein the less than full liquidity is determined by ratings of the assets backing the portfolio and probabilities of rating changes of the assets backing the portfolio.

20 (Original). A method for providing shared liquidity commitments to asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising as one of a plurality of banks, providing a liquidity commitment for a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, wherein the liquidity commitment assures full liquidity for the particular commercial paper issue and represents less

than full liquidity for a larger portfolio of asset backed commercial paper issues, and further wherein the less than full liquidity is calculated using ratings of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of rating changes of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of extent of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of existence of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of continued draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, and probabilities of default by the plurality of banks.

21 (**Previously Presented**). A method for managing liquidity requirements of asset backed commercial paper comprising:

identifying a full liquidity requirement for individual commercial paper commitments backed by a plurality of financial institutions;

estimating a reduced liquidity requirement for the commitments wherein the reduced liquidity requirement satisfies one or more funding needs as determined by a simulation to predict one or more funding needs associated with the asset backed commercial paper;

allocating the reduced liquidity requirement among the plurality of financial institutions; and

receiving shared liquidity assurances from the plurality of financial institutions for the individual commitments.

22 (**Canceled**).

23 (Original). A method according to claim 21, wherein allocating the reduced liquidity

requirement is in relative proportion to the individual commercial paper commitments.

24 (Original). A method according to claim 21, wherein support for a draw against a particular individual commitment up to a level of the allocated reduced liquidity is assured by at least the institution backing the particular individual commitment.

25 (Original). A method according to claim 21, wherein support for a draw against a particular individual commitment above the level of the allocated reduced liquidity is assured by at least the plurality of institutions.

26 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 21, wherein estimating the reduced liquidity requirement further comprises:

- determining ratings of assets backing the commitments; and
- determining probabilities of rating changes of the assets.

27 (Original). A method according to claim 26, wherein the probabilities of rating changes considers characteristics of the assets.

28 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 21, wherein estimating the reduced liquidity requirement further comprises:

- determining probabilities of draw on liquidity for the commitments; and
- determining probabilities of extent of draw on liquidity for the commitments.

29 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 21, wherein estimating the reduced liquidity requirement further comprises:

determining probabilities of existence of a draw on liquidity for the commitments; and
determining probabilities of continued draw on liquidity for the commitments.

30 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of financial institutions further comprise a plurality of banks, the method further comprising:

determining default probabilities of the plurality of banks.

31 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 21, wherein the individual commercial paper commitments are backed by correlated assets, the method further comprising:

creating a virtual portfolio of uncorrelated assets, which model the assets backing the commitments.

32 (**Previously Presented**). A method according to claim 21, wherein the individual commercial paper commitments are backed by correlated assets, the method further comprising:

determining actual characteristics of the assets.

33 (Original). A method according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of financial institutions further comprise a plurality of banks, the method further comprising allocating the reduced liquidity requirement among the plurality of banks.

34 (Original). A method according to claim 33, wherein the reduced liquidity requirement

is a percentage of the full liquidity requirement and the allocation is substantially the same percentage for each of the plurality of banks.

35 (**Previously Presented**). Computer executable software code transmitted as an information signal, the code for managing liquidity requirements of asset backed commercial paper, the code comprising:

code to identify a full liquidity requirement for individual commercial paper commitments backed by a plurality of financial institutions;

code to estimate a reduced liquidity requirement for the commitments wherein the reduced liquidity requirement satisfies one or more funding needs as determined by a simulation to predict one or more funding needs associated with the asset backed commercial paper;

code to allocate the reduced liquidity requirement among the plurality of financial institutions; and

code to receive shared liquidity assurances from the plurality of financial institutions for the individual commitments.

36 (**Previously Presented**). A computer-readable medium having computer executable software code stored thereon, the code for managing liquidity requirements of asset backed commercial paper, the code comprising:

code to identify a full liquidity requirement for individual commercial paper commitments backed by a plurality of financial institutions;

code to estimate a reduced liquidity requirement for the commitments wherein the reduced liquidity requirement satisfies one or more funding needs as determined by a simulation to predict one or more funding needs associated with the asset backed commercial paper;

code to allocate the reduced liquidity requirement among the plurality of financial institutions; and

code to receive shared liquidity assurances from the plurality of financial institutions for the individual commitments.

37 (Previously Presented). A programmed computer for managing liquidity requirements of asset backed commercial paper, comprising:

a memory having at least one region for storing computer executable program code; and a processor for executing the program code stored in the memory; wherein the program code comprises:

code to identify a full liquidity requirement for individual commercial paper commitments backed by a plurality of financial institutions;

code to estimate a reduced liquidity requirement for the commitments wherein the reduced liquidity requirement satisfies one or more funding needs as determined by a simulation to predict one or more funding needs associated with the asset backed commercial paper;

code to allocate the reduced liquidity requirement among the plurality of financial institutions; and

code to receive shared liquidity assurances from the plurality of financial institutions for the individual commitments.

38 (**Previously Presented**). A method for managing liquidity requirements of asset backed commercial paper comprising:

determining a full liquidity requirement for individual asset backed commercial paper commitments, the liquidity commitments provided by a plurality of banks;

determining actual characteristics of individual assets backing the commercial paper commitments;

determining ratings of the individual assets;

determining probabilities of rating changes of the individual assets using data from past rating changes;

determining probabilities of draw on liquidity using data from past draws on liquidity;
determining probabilities of extent of draw on liquidity using data from past extent of draw on liquidity;

determining probabilities of existence of a draw on liquidity using data from past existence of draw on liquidity;

determining probabilities of continued draw on liquidity using data from past continued draw on liquidity;

determining default probabilities of the banks using data from past bank defaults;

estimating a percentage reduced liquidity amount using at least the actual characteristics, the ratings, the probabilities of rating changes, the probabilities of draw, the probabilities of extent of draw, the probabilities of existence of draw, the probabilities of continued draw and the default probabilities of the banks; allocating the percentage reduced liquidity requirement among the banks; and

receiving shared liquidity assurances from the banks for the reduced liquidity requirement, wherein support for a draw against a particular commitment up to a level of the allocated reduced liquidity is assured by at least the bank providing the liquidity commitment, and support for a draw against a particular commitment above the level of the allocated reduced liquidity is assured by the plurality of banks.

39 (Original). A method for issuing asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising: receiving from a plurality of financial institutions, a shared liquidity assurance for a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, wherein the shared liquidity assurance represents an allocation of less than a full liquidity requirement among the institutions; and issuing the particular asset backed commercial paper.

40 (Original). A method for issuing asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising:

receiving a shared liquidity assurance from a plurality of banks for a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, wherein the shared liquidity assurance represents a percentage allocation among the banks of less than a full liquidity requirement for a larger portfolio of asset backed commercial paper issue, wherein the percentage allocation is calculated using ratings of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of rating changes of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of extent of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of existence of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of continued draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, and

probabilities of default by the plurality of banks; and issuing the particular asset backed commercial paper.

41 (Original). A method for investing in asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising:

investing in a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, which has a shared liquidity assurance from a plurality of financial institutions, wherein the shared liquidity assurance represents an allocation among the institutions of less than a full liquidity requirement; and redeeming the particular asset backed commercial paper.

42 (Original). A method for investing in asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising: investing in a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, which has a shared liquidity assurance from a plurality of banks, wherein the shared liquidity assurance represents a percentage allocation among the banks of less than a full liquidity requirement for a larger portfolio of asset backed commercial paper issues, wherein the percentage allocation is calculated using ratings of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of rating changes of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of extent of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of existence of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of continued draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, and probabilities of default by the plurality of banks; and redeeming the particular asset backed commercial paper.

43 (Original). A method for providing liquidity assurance to asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising as a member of a plurality of financial institutions, providing a shared liquidity assurance for a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, wherein the shared liquidity assurance represents an allocation among the plurality of institutions of less than a full liquidity requirement.

44 (Original). A method for providing liquidity assurance to asset backed commercial paper, the method comprising as a member of a plurality of banks, providing a shared liquidity assurance for a particular asset backed commercial paper issue, wherein the shared liquidity assurance represents a percentage allocation among the banks of less than a full liquidity requirement for a larger portfolio of asset backed commercial paper, wherein the percentage allocation is calculated using ratings of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of rating changes of the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of extent of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of existence of draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, probabilities of continued draw on liquidity for the assets backing the larger portfolio, and probabilities of default by the plurality of banks.